

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) In a vacuum cleaner including a main housing, the improvement comprising a [[A]] dirt cup for a vacuum cleaner, comprising including:

a dirt cup housing for removably attaching to the main housing and defining a dirt collection chamber, said housing including a first sidewall;

an inlet in said first sidewall of said housing in fluid communication with said dirt collection chamber;

an outlet in said first sidewall of said housing in fluid communication with said dirt collection chamber; and

an attachable and detachable filter holder on said dirt cup housing external to said dirt collection chamber and downstream from said outlet.

2. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 1 further including a prefilter held on said dirt cup housing across said outlet.

3. (original) The dirt cup of claim 2, further including a filter in said filter holder.

4. (original) The dirt cup of claim 3, wherein said filter includes a support and a pleated filter media.

5. (original) The dirt cup of claim 4, wherein said prefilter is a screen.

6. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 4, wherein said dirt cup housing includes a top wall and a bottom wall.
7. (canceled)
8. (previously presented) The dirt cup of claim 6, wherein said bottom wall is connected by a hinge to a second sidewall.
9. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 8, further including a first latch carried on said dirt cup housing and securing said bottom wall in a closed position.
10. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 8 further including a second latch carried on said dirt cup housing and securing said dirt cup to a vacuum cleaner.
11. (original) The dirt cup of claim 1, further including a filter in said attachable and detachable filter holder.
12. (original) The dirt cup of claim 11, wherein said filter includes a support and a pleated filter media.
13. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 12, further including a prefilter held on said dirt cup housing, wherein said prefilter is a screen.

14. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 12, wherein said dirt cup housing includes a top wall and a bottom wall.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The dirt cup of claim 14, wherein said bottom wall is connected by a hinge to a second sidewall.

17. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 16, further including a first latch carried on said dirt cup housing and securing said bottom wall in a closed position.

18. (currently amended) The dirt cup of claim 16 further including a second latch carried on said dirt cup housing and securing said dirt cup to a canister assembly forming part of the main housing of the [[a]] vacuum cleaner.

19. (cancelled)

20. (new claim) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:

a nozzle assembly;

a canister assembly;

5 a suction generator carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly; and

a dirt cup carried on one of said nozzle assembly and said canister assembly;

said dirt cup being characterized by a housing defining a dirt collection chamber, said housing including a first sidewall;

an inlet in said first sidewall of said housing in fluid communication with said dirt collection chamber;

5 an outlet in said first sidewall of said housing in fluid communication with said dirt collection chamber;

an attachable and detachable filter holder on said housing external to said dirt collection chamber and downstream from said outlet.

21. (new claim) The vacuum cleaner of claim 20, wherein the dirt cup is carried  
10 on the canister assembly.